

FINAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Old Newburgh Presbyterian Church

AND/OR COMMON  
Newburgh Town Hall

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
North State Street at West Main

CITY, TOWN Newburgh VICINITY OF 8th  
— NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Indiana CODE 018 COUNTY Warrick CODE 173

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Town of Newburgh

STREET & NUMBER  
North State Street at West Main Street; P.O. Box 6,

CITY, TOWN Newburgh VICINITY OF STATE Indiana 47630

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Warrick County (Indiana) Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN Boonville STATE Indiana 47601

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
None

DATE  
— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Constructed in 1851, the Old Newburgh Presbyterian Church, now known as the Town Hall, is located in Newburgh at the northwest corner of North State and West Main Streets.

The simple rectangular brick structure has two stories capped with a gable roof and a wooden bell tower over the main entrance. The roof has close eaves and plain returns on the east and west ends. The front facade faces North State Street and has two windows on the ground level flanking a central double-door entry. The wood paneled doors have a rectangular transom and a wooden hood supported by square columns and pilasters. A sign on the hood identifies the structure as the Town Hall while another sign below the first indicates the date of construction. On the second level two windows are set in a recessed panel. All windows have stone lintels and sills.

The bell tower has a square frame base with vents on each side. A domed, eight-sided cupola rests on the square base.

The other sides of the structure are fairly simple. The north and south sides have four windows on the first floor; these have double-hung sashes with four over four lights. The south side has an entrance with a modern storm door which is a recent addition. The four windows on the second story of each side are set in recessed panels; these are opalescent stained-glass windows assembled with zinc came.

Many of the structure's interior features are original. The bell was evidently installed soon after the church was finished in 1853 because it was in use during the Civil War. The black walnut pews in the old sanctuary on the second story are used for town meetings, and some of the original brass wall fixtures remain.

The existing exterior is much like the original although a number of changes have taken place over the years. In 1927, the brick exterior was covered with a yellow stucco. Probably at the same time the original cupola was removed and replaced with a square wooden structure with a hipped roof. A porch roof was constructed over the main entrance. The cupola was restored in 1948. In 1968 the stucco was removed, the bricks repointed, and the main entrance restored. In 1971 and 1973 changes were made on the interior so that the structure could accommodate city offices.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1851-53

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Newburgh Town Hall is significant as a structure that has many local historical associations and has survived from the town's early years.

The first permanent settler in the area came in 1803. Although he established a town, about 1820 another small community was established nearby. In 1837 the two settlements were united under the name of Newburgh. In the same year the Cumberland Presbyterian congregation was established as the first church in the community. The church was founded by Abraham M. Phelps and his wife.

Phelps settled in Newburgh in 1830 and built a fortune from trading on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and speculating in land. Among the local causes which benefited from Phelps' generosity was the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The congregation met in a number of places in its early years, and in 1851 began construction of a brick structure. The church building was completed in 1853 at a cost of \$4,000. The project was made possible by Phelps who donated much of the building's cost. The dedication service was held on June 25, 1853.

Later in 1853 the Newburgh Cumberland Presbyterian Church became the home of Delaney Academy. The Delaney Academy was a school established in Newburgh in 1842 by the Cumberland Presbyterians. At first the two teachers conducted classes in a frame building, but in 1853 the school was moved to the Presbyterian Church basement. Students could elect courses in natural sciences, teaching, rhetoric, mental and moral philosophy, logic, Latin, Greek, and mathematics. When the Academy was in session, Newburgh hotels and boarding houses were crowded with students, and Newburgh became known as the educational center of southern Indiana. After meeting for four years in the church, the school moved to its own building which was donated by Phelps. The Delaney Academy was unable to compete with the expansion of free public schools supported by the state, and in 1867 the school moved to Illinois and became the nucleus of Lincoln College at Lincoln, Illinois.

During the Civil War, southern Indiana was well aware that Kentucky's loyalty to the Union was dubious at best, and Morgan's Raids in 1863 removed any false hopes that the war would remain south of the Ohio River. In Newburgh the Presbyterian Church bell was used to summon the home guard in times of danger. As added insurance, a rope was run from the bell to the house next door in the event that the church could not be reached in time.

Later events associated with the structure were more commonplace. Baptisms, weddings, and funerals marked the passage of generations. In 1906 the congregation voted to leave the Cumberland denomination and join the main Presbyterian Church. In 1965 the congregation voted to relocate, and the structure was sold to the town for \$14,000. Since 1965 it has served as a town hall.

Form No. 10-300a  
(Rev. 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The Newburgh Town Hall is the oldest surviving church structure in the community. Certain features such as the square pillars at the main door and the recessed panels along the sides, suggesting brick pilasters, denote a Greek Revival influence in the design. In addition to its architectural significance, the structure is a reminder of Newburgh's connection with the Civil War and its brief time as a center of higher education in southwestern Indiana.

